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342
233 with straw roofs. They are rarely plastered with mud. In western Sredna Gora, transportable sheep pens are used (Gellert, 1937: 169).

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648 In Rumania there exists a marked difference between settlements in the lowlands and those of the Carpathian Mountain region. While topography and the presence or absence of such building materials as stone, wood or clay are important factors, political considerations also played a significant role. With the beginning of the 18th century Greek influence became predominant in Moldavia and Wallachia. The Porte set up Greek rulers in these principalities, thus in reality the Rumanians were as much under Turkish dominion, although indirectly, as were the people of the Balkans. It was only after the rebellion of 1821 that Rumanian rulers were reinstated. During all periods of unrest and foreign invasion the mountains and forests served as areas of refuge; the Serbian hajduk has his counterpart in the Rumanian heydoick (Stratilesco, 1907: 30-34).

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361 Location and Types of Settlements. The older settlements were
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[133] in the nature of hamlets (cătin). These were generally not built on the top of hills, but rather in depressions, on the edge of forests, and away from the military roads (Grothe, 1907: 54). In the hilly regions of Oltenia and Moldavia the villages were located close to a river or on the slope of a hill. Farmsteads are generally spaced fairly far apart, in no definite order. Villages may extend over two or three hills facing one another (Stratilesco, 1907: 205).
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[491] Villages in the Wallachian plains are located close to the roads. The prevalent type is the road village; buildings are located on either side of the highway which forms the main road of the village. Larger villages may have additional cross-roads (Jänecke, 1918: 7).
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[621] While mountain villages average a population of 350, the largest being around 700, villages of the plains average 700 and may reach 2000 (Grothe, 1907: 55).

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342 House Types. Due to the scarcity of wood and stone in the plains, buildings are generally constructed of wicker and daub, in
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[335] which technique the Rumanians are masters. The roof is made first, the walls afterwards. The principle posts are first set into the ground, then the studs of the outer walls and inner partitions are spaced at 1 to 2 foot intervals. After the roof has been formed walls are built up. Mud is kneaded down with the feet, mixed with straw, and shaped into lumps that take the place of bricks. These lumps are then set between the studs and left to dry (Stratilesco, 1907: 208). More often walls are of wickerwork, plastered inside and out with a mixture of mud, straw and cowdung to a thickness of 15-25 centimeters (Jänecke, 1918: 10). The rough walls are smoothed out by applying thinner and thinner layers of mud and cowdung mixture. They are then whitewashed inside and out. Floors of timber are recent; the floor is commonly of tamped earth.

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The hipped roof is rather flat and made of corn straw or reed, about 40 centimeters thick. The frame is often of the collar type, horizontal beams supporting opposing rafters (figs. 60a, 64). Pan tiles appear only in isolated instances. In 1918 sheet iron was becoming popular because it was economical and saved time and effort. It was generally painted red-brown. Chimneys are usually inadequate or lacking (JÜnecke, 1918: 11). 342 [335] [327]

Every house has an open veranda (prispa) on at least one side which may or may not have a low banister. It is slightly elevated from the ground and is protected by an extension of the eaves. While many Moldavian houses consist of only one room, even the smallest house in Wallachia has an anteroom (tinda). Here the main room is called odaia and has a special stove that is heated by a flue from the hearth in the anteroom. Often an additional odaia is added on the other side of the anteroom forming a symmetrical three-room house. Sometimes additional units are built onto the house on one or both of the narrow sides (figs. 57c, 58). The roof is extended over them in the form of a catalide (fig. 57a). These units are used for storage of agricultural tools, stables, summer kitchens, etc. If two are not sufficient, three or more units may be added. The prispa may be extended alongside the annex; or, when the annex protrudes in front of the house, the prispa may stop at the annex wall (fig. 57c). Occasionally a large house may have two parallel rows of rooms. However, this arrangement complicates the roof construction, which in this case is generally unsuccessful (JÜnecke, 1918: 11-16). [341] [354]

The interior is very simple. The anteroom serves for the storage of house implements; maize is kept in wooden boxes and placed along the wall, and there is also a small handmill for grinding maize. A large oven with a hearth in front of it is located at the wall opposite the door (figs. 57c, 58). The anteroom has no ceiling. When two odaias are present one is used for both living and sleeping quarters, while the other is used for the storage of blankets, carpets etc. It is somewhat of a guest-room. [251] [353] [364]

In the Rumanian house special attention has been given to the hearth and stove, and the whole house can be said to have been built around the hearth. The hearth is the showpiece of the room. Arched over the hearth is a decorated mantel on which cooking utensils are placed. Niches on either side of the hearth are provided for the same purpose. Because of the inflammability of the straw roof, the chimney is of brick (these are the only bricks in the house and are made by the peasants themselves). The stoves in the living room are of unusual construction. The most spectacular of these are the columnar stoves which are not only beautiful but also effective. To the main part of the stove have been added graceful clay pipes which are either arranged symmetrically or placed on one side. The better ones resemble organs. The rest of the stove is also made of clay bricks set in mud mortar and covered with a layer of plaster of a lime and sand mixture. Decoration of clay or plaster may be added. These stoves are generally built by Gypsies. 354

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The roof is steeper than in the plains and protrudes further over the house. The support is in the form of a collar. The rafters tend to be too widely spaced, which results in slight bending of the battens; but, while it makes for a weaker roof, this results in softer and more pleasing lines. The four corners are not sharp but tend to be rounded (fig. 62). Wooden shingles are almost exclusively used for roof covering. They are about 15 centimeters wide and may be as long as 3 meters. They overlap two to four times. Shorter shingles form 6–10 rows. The smaller shingles may have their ends in the form of swallow tails or other decorative shapes. The ridge shows a special development. On the windward side the first layer of shingles is made to protrude over the ridgepole (fig. 62). These shingles also have excised patterns and are very ornamental. The ridgepoles may extend slightly over the hip and have a small gabled roof, one shingle in height (fig. 62). This provides an opening for the smoke to escape through. Ornamental poles rise at either end of the ridgepole (fig. 61).

Chimneys are lacking and the smoke may escape through openings at the ridge or otherwise through the roof, which then shows all shades of gray to black. In some areas of Oltenia in southwestern Rumania one finds wooden chimneys (fig. 65). These are made of wicker and daub and are covered with shingles.

A special development in the foothills of the Southern Carpathian Mountains is the privy, which is in the form of an annex located at the end of the veranda (fig. 64b).

In general the buildings in the mountain districts show a greater variation than those of the plains. The woodwork is superior, and shows a great deal of inventiveness. The construction, however, is irregular, sloppy and often not functional. Pillars that carry no weight may be very thick, while those that must support much weight may be much too slender (Jänecke, 1918: 35–43).

Kulas (fig. 67) are found only in the mountainous regions of Oltenia in the district of Mehedinti, Gorj and Râmnicu-Vâlcea. They were built by the boyars, the wealthy landowners. The oldest ones come from the period when the Rumanian rulers were paying tribute to the sultan. The ground plan is a square 7 by 12 meters in length. The width of the walls is 30–70 centimeters. The kula (fig. 67) may have three or four stories, each about 2.5 meters in height. Each story has one room. The ground floor is used for storage; sometimes a well is built into it, and occasionally there is a subterranean escape passage. The upper floors may also be used for storage, but are mainly living quarters. Windows are generally found only on one side; the other walls are provided with loopholes. On the top floor there is generally an open veranda (cerdak) about 3 meters wide, the roof over which is supported by pillars (fig. 67). The exposure is toward the valley and the south. On the side opposite the cerdak there is a simple wooden balcony under the eaves (fig. 67). Many kulas have a privy tower attached to them.